

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112314
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112314

PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH GOI
MINISTER OF INFORMATION ALI MURTOPO

1. MIN. ALI MURTOPO CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM
MAY 1 ACCOMPANIED BY INDONESIAN CHARGE ARIFIN. MURTOPO
DEPARTED WASHINGTON MAY 2 FOR BRIEF STOP IN LONDON PRIOR
RETURNING TO JAKARTA TO MEET VICE PRESIDENT. MAIN POINTS
OF INTEREST IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A COURTESY CALL WERE
AS FOLLOW:

A. VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL QUERY
FROM MURTOPO REGARDING VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, UNDER
SECRETARY NOTED VISIT DEMONSTRATED HIGH-LEVEL ADMINISTRA-
TION INTEREST IN AREA. REFERRING TO PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 112314

MURTOPO IN JAKARTA, UNDER SECRETARY STATED VICE PRESIDENT
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GOI VIEWS ON ASIAN DEVELOPMENTS AND
PROGRESS OF ASEAN AND WOULD REFLECT SOME OF USG CONCERNS
IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. UNDER SECRETARY STATED USG
WELCOMED ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOI ON PRISONER RELEASES. HE
ALSO INDICATED USG REMAINS INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY
OF AMERICAN OR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES ASSIST-

ING IN EAST TIMOR. IN CASE OF ORGANIZATION SUCH AS CRS,
INDONESIAN PERSONNEL MIGHT BE USED. UNDER SECRETARY NOTED

THAT STEPS DEMONSTRATING OPENNESS WITH REGARD EAST
TIMOR WOULD BE USEFUL IN WASHINGTON CONTEXT AS EVIDENCE
THAT PROGRESS IN INDONESIA IS CONTINUING DESPITE SLOW-
DOWN DURING PRE-MPR PERIOD.

B. RELATIONS WITH PRC PICKING UP ON UNDER SECRETARY'S
MENTION OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENTS, MURTOPO WENT INTO SOMEWHAT
CONFUSING ASSESSMENT OF PRC ATTITUDES TOWARD INDONESIA,
STATING THAT CHINESE HAD TWICE RECENTLY INDICATED TO
GOI THAT RESTORATION OF RELATIONS WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON
INDONESIAN COOPERATION IN AN EFFORT TO THROW "SUPER-
POWERS", I.E., BOTH USSR AND US, OUT OF THE REGION.
UNDER SECRETARY AND OTHER US PARTICIPANTS NOTED THIS
ASSESSMENT WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH OUR REPORTS OF
CHINESE ATTITUDES. OUR INFO INDICATES CHINESE
ACQUIESCE IN US POSTURE IN REGION AND DO NOT OBJECT TO
OUR CLOSE TIES WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PHILIPPINES AND
THAILAND.

C. GENERATION OF 45. IN RESPONSE UNDER SECRETARY'S
COMMENT THAT GOI NOW HAD FIVE YEARS TO TRANSFER POWER
FROM GENERATION OF 45 TO YOUNGER LEADERS, MURTOPO
IMMEDIATELY INTERJECTED "FIVE TO TEN". IN EXPLANATION,
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PAGE 03 STATE 112314

MURTOPO ASSERTED THAT IT WOULD TAKE FIVE TO TEN YEARS
TO ACCOMPLISH A "REGENERATION" WHICH WOULD REQUIRE NOT
JUST A REPLACEMENT OF PERSONNEL, BUT "CHANGES IN IDEAS"
IN THOSE MOVING TOWARD TOP POSITIONS. VANCE

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